

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Find great presents and help State Parks

Discover the Holidays at Old Town

San Diego - **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**, celebrates *Holiday in the Park* with entertainment, living history activities, extended hours, and the 61st annual Las Posadas procession.

Just minutes from downtown and an option to the busy malls, stores in the State Historic Park offer high quality unique gifts at reasonable prices in a quaint historic setting. Shoppers are offered a glimpse into yesteryear, where life moves more slowly in this part of town, and where the holiday hustle and bustle is balanced with history and fiestas. There are a variety of activities that offer visitors the opportunity to experience the history of early San Diego.

Holiday in the Park begins on Saturday, December 10 from 10am until at least 8pm with the Historic Merchants Open House, and continues on Sunday December 11, with the 61st year of Las Posadas procession, starting at 5pm. Throughout the event during both days, the State Historic Park will be adorned with holiday decorations including a live tree in the Seeley Stable, lantern-lit museums, horse drawn wagon rides for a small fee, festive music, and living history activities. Enjoy S'mores & gathering around a bonfire in the Plaza on Dec. 10 & 11, and from Dec. 26 through Dec. 30. Handcrafted original gingerbread houses will be displayed by various merchants.

Within the State Historic Park, there are over forty specialty shops, offering products such as candles, decorative tin, jewelry, gems and minerals, ladies fine goods, tobaccos, general store items, coffee & teas, home décor, leather goods, pottery, Native American hand crafts, books, and more. "It's a Wonderful Life" will be on stage at the Cygnet Theatre. There is also a Park Store at the Robinson-Rose Visitor Information Center offering a variety of crafts and other related products, with proceeds going to the Boosters of Old Town, directly supporting the park's educational programs.

If you work up an appetite strolling through the shops, five restaurants offer traditional Mexican and American foods, including children's menus. There are also shops that offer quick snacks including hot and cold beverages, traditional soft pretzels, hot dogs, and empanadas. To keep kids of all ages busy, including during the holidays, tours are offered daily at 11am & 2pm, and museums are open from 10am-5pm, including the 1830s adobe townhouse La Casa de Estudillo, La Casa de Machado y Silvas, San Diego's earliest newspaper office, the McCoy House Interpretive Center, a working blacksmith shop, and the Seeley Stables, with exhibits on overland transportation and one of the finest wagon and carriage collections.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is conveniently located next to the Old Town Transit Center with Coaster, Amtrak, Trolley, and MTS bus service.

For a list of stores, events, or additional information, go to www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego, or phone 619-220-5422. Additional event information available at www.fiestadereyes.com.

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